

MIDHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MIDHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following report for the year 1941 follows in its general lines the precedent of previous war-time reports and must be regarded as little more than a bare chronicle of events as a basis for future expansion.

On the whole the year was one of unexpected healthiness as is shewn not only by the evidence of the figures given in what follows, but perhaps even more by regular day to day contact with the public and particularly with the child population. It is specially gratifying to notice that in spite of heavy attacks on Portsmouth the overcrowding conditions of the district have shewn no deterioration. Indeed it would be true to say that in spite of the war the sanitary condition of the Midhurst Rural District stands on a plane which it has never before reached, and so far shows no sign of deterioration. Although to a certain extent this is the result of factors beyond our control there will be a few who, when they look back over the hard spade work that has been put into the sanitary improvements in the last few years, will not agree that all that has been done has been anything but well worth while. Indeed it is probable that the community will reap for some time to come a very rich harvest from all that was done in the housing provisions for rural workers, the renovation of cowsheds, the institution of main water supplies and the many other activities which have been the concern of your regular Public Health Committee. These fortunate results have been due not only to the work that has been done in the Committee room, but also to the loyal service of a number of Sanitary Officers, and no less to the ready co-operation of many property owners and particularly those with the large estates throughout the district.

The general events of the year are noted under their appropriate headings. There are two developments of unusual nature which are worthy of special mention. Many will still remember the shock which was experienced in the district when numbers of evacuees with lousy heads first visited us. That this was no unusual state of affairs was shewn by Dr. Kenneth Mellanby, who found that in industrial areas it was no unusual thing for over 50% of the girls between the ages of 7 and 11 to be infested. When this state of affairs became public a special survey of **the "cleanliness" of the children of West Sussex was instituted and the result showed that of 1,282 Midhurst district children 26 (2%) were infested, while of the 1,055 evacuees 23 (2.1%) were infested.** These figures compare very favourably with those for the country as a whole and with those for the County, where it was found that the percentage varied from 3.3 for local children in urban schools to 2.2 for evacuees in country schools. Much credit is due to the population of the district on this account, but there is no reason why the record of the district should be spoilt even by this small percentage, who, as every nurse knows, are chronic offenders appearing time after time. It is much to be hoped that the reproach will be removed and the matter not allowed to be forgotten.

The other unusual event was the introduction by the Ministry of Food of a comprehensive distribution of vitamins for young children. Although not strictly a matter that comes directly within the sphere of the Health Committee of a Rural District it must be given proper notice because it represents the first attempt to secure perfect nutrition for the population as a whole. It may be years before its results become apparent, but no-one who has made a study of nutritional matters lately is likely to doubt that it will be a material contribution to improving the health of the rising generation.

The figures for diphtheria immunisation are given in the substance of the report and shew that steady progress is being made, but that there remains much to be done for the children under five years of age. The campaign fully justified itself when the disease broke out in Tillington and failed to spread, although none of the usual ritual of indirect methods of prevention were undertaken.

Finally, I must express my personal regret that my association with the Midhurst Rural District should be brought to an end and my appreciation of all that has been done in so many quarters to make my term of office a very pleasant memory.

J. L. NEWMAN.

Shire Hall,
WARWICK.
May, 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

J.L. Newman, M.D. (Cantab)., M.R.C.P. (Lond.)., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, also Assistant County and Assistant School Medical Officer, West Sussex County Council.

T.G. Henry, C.S.I.B., C.R. San. Institute (Meat and Other Foods), M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector; Inspector under the Petroleum Consolidated Act; Fuel Control Officer.

F. Lockwood, C.S.I.B., C.R. San. Institute (Meat and Other Foods), Assistant Sanitary Inspector, (left 22nd February 1941).

L.H. Newnham, C.S.I.B., Clerk, (joined H.M. Forces, May, 1941).

A. Greenfield, Clerk, (from 19th May, 1941).

SECTION A.

Area (acres)	66,892.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, 31st December 1941	4,620.
Rateable Value, 31st December 1941	£ 107,030
Sum represented by a ld. rate	£ 436
Number of houses erected in 1941	5
Number of Council houses erected in 1941	Nil

VITAL STATISTICS.

1.a. Live Births	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	97	98	195
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Total	101.	101	202.

b. Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 10.77%.

2.a. Still births	6	2	8
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b. Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births - 58%.

3.a. Deaths.	101	108	209
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b. Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 11.15%.

4.a. Deaths from puerperal causes.

1. No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
2. No. 30 Other Puerperal causes.	Nil

b. Rate per 1,000 total births - Nil.

5.a. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age - 6.

b. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births -	50.77
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " " -	Nil
All " " " " " " -	0.52.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	2	2
5. Diphtheria	-	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	2	5
7. Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	1	2	3
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Infect. Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	-	-	-
Cancer of uterus (females only)	-	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	5	7
15. Cancer of breast	-	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	11	22
17. Diabetes	2	-	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	9	15
19. Heart disease	25	27	52
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	3	5	6
	53	65	118

CAUSES OF DEATH (CONTD.)

(Brt. fwd.)

21. Bronchitis	3	4	7
22. Pneumonia	7	7	14
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
24. Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum	3	1	3
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	-
26. Appendicitis	1	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	3	6	9
28. Nephritis	1	4	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1	1	-
30. Other maternal causes	1	1	-
31. Premature birth	2	1	3
32. Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	2	1	3
33. Suicide	2	1	2
34. Road traffic accidents	3	2	5
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	19	15	34
	101	108	209

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes in the general provision of health services in the District during the year under review.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies.

The results of sampling were as follows :-

- (a) Public supplies - (Midhurst Rural District Council supply, Peterstfield Rural District Council supply and Wey Valley Water Co.)

Samples - 15 (Chemical 4. Bacteriological 11.) Satisfactory 15.

- (b) Semi-public supplies.

Samples - 40 (Chemical 1. Bacteriological 39). Satisfactory 21
Doubtful 7
Unsatisfactory 12

- (c) Private supplies.

Samples - 25 (Chemical 1. Bacteriological 24.) Satisfactory 11
Doubtful 5
Unsatisfactory 9

Note: 10 of these samples were taken in connection with emergency supplies and only two of them were satisfactory. They represent supplies not ordinarily in use.

Midhurst Rural District Council supply was in course of having an emergency chlorinating plant installed at the end of the year.

Graffnam Western Water Supply had showed a persistently high degree of bacterial contamination and the source of this could not be traced. A chlorinating plant was installed and the subsequent samples have proved satisfactory.

Lurnashall - Aldworth House. This supply, to the house and one or two cottages in the estate, has also been chlorinated.

Easebourne Village Supply. Analytical evidence threw considerable doubts on the purity of this supply. It was found to be derived from springs and these springs bubbled up close to the village street in a piece of open ground where rubbish could be tipped. To enclose this ground was obviously essential, but even after this had been done the contamination remained. Attention was next turned to some cottages close by but at a higher level. Their drains were faulty and were accordingly relaid, but some contamination still remained and in view of the wide use to which this source was put, it was deemed wiser to have it chlorinated. Arrangements for this were still in progress at the end of the year.

Hollycombe and Wardley. This supply had long been a trouble on account of an iron discoloration and the presence of sand. The main was examined and a burst found through which sand was getting in. This was repaired, a copper gauze screen was fitted to the intake pipe and a wash-out valve fixed in the lowest part of the main.

Terwick Cottages (Owned by the Rural District Council) In my report for 1940 I stated that these cottages now had a satisfactory supply. Unfortunately this proved not to be the case and boring had to be undertaken. At a depth of 276 feet water was found and a yield of 270 gallons per hour secured. It is hoped that this will finally meet the needs of these cottages.

South Harting. Tipper Lane cottages (owned by the Rural District Council), had depended on rainwater tanks. These proved unsatisfactory and a standpipe was installed from the village supply.

Elsted supply gave unsatisfactory results to bacteriological analysis, but an exhaustive investigation into its source on the bare Downs shewed no apparent possibility of contamination from human sources and so no action was taken.

Durleigh Marsh. At last there seems some prospect of putting an end to the roadside brook as a source of water. Negotiations are in progress for the institution of a piped supply.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

A new drainage system was installed at Harting School and a nuisance of longstanding recurrence was thus abolished. Two houses in School Road, Camelsdale, were connected to the sewer.

3. Closet Accommodation.

The pail closets in the 8 houses in Van Lane, Fernhurst, were made to comply with the bye-laws. Unfortunately it was not possible to obtain the materials needed for conversion to the water carriage system.

4. (i) Sanitary Inspection of the area.

Complaints received	109
Informal Notices Served	162
Informal Notices Complied with	181
Statutory Notices, Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936	4
" " Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
" " Section 155 of the Housing Act, 1936	2

Visits made:-

Housing First Visits	291
Housing Re-Visits	419
Overcrowding	122
Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences	800
Water Supplies	738
Sewerage	5
Privies, Cesspools and Ditches	156
Refuse and Accumulations	8
Verminous Premises	15
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	3
Schools	69
Moveable Dwellings	11
Infectious Diseases	154
Miscellaneous	9

(11) Groups and Offices.

Visits made	16
Notices Served	3
Notices Complied with	2

(12) Camping Sites.

Number of Camping Sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 :-

- (1) Licences to erect or station and use a moveable dwelling 16
- (2) Licences to use land as a site for moveable dwellings ... 1

(13) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Three premises were found to be infested and subsequently cleansed of vermin. The trouble in each case arose through infested clothing or bedding being brought into the District by refugees.

(14) Factories and Workshops.

1. Inspections.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories with Mechanical Power	16	2	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	61	4	Nil
Other Premises	-	-	-
	<u>77</u>	<u>6</u>	

2. Defects Found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of defects.</u>			
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>Prosecuted.</u>
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	2	2	-	-
Other offences (Water Supply)	1	1	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).....	291
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	351
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	54
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	69
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	143

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	123
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

A. - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	0

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners.....	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C. - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	0

Notes:

- (a) Two houses at Cocking were condemned during the year.
- (b) Licences were granted for the following houses, the subject of demolition Orders, to be occupied as a temporary War-time measure under Regulation 68 AA. of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 :-

Two houses at Hoyle, Heyshott.
One house at Milland, Chithurst.
One house at Windfallwood, Lurgashall.

OVERCROWDING.

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

A. -	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	16
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein.....	21
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	111.
B. -	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
C. -	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	23
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	187
D. -	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding.....	0

HOUSES OVERCROWDED AT THE END OF 1941.

Parish	Ref. No.	Property	No. of Persons.	Equiv. Adults.	Perm. No.	Excess.	Remarks.
Easebourne	203	C52, Soutars Hill ...	7	6	5	1	
Graffham	34	2, Woodcote Cottages.	7	7	6	1	
Harting	19	5, Slate Cottages.	6	5½	5	½	
Harting	37	Mount Pleasant.	12	10	7	3	
Heyshott	45	2, Polecats	4	3	2½	½	
Iping.	97	Wardley Green	8	6	5	1	
Linchmere	143	Innisfree, New Road	7	6½	5	1½	
Lurgashall.	54	Sibbs, Windfullwood.	7	6½	5	1½	
Midhurst	453	C132, North Mill Cottages	4	3½	3	½	
Midhurst	533	Tollgate Cottage	4	3½	3	½	
South Ambersham	7	C238, Gosdens Heath	7	5½	4½	1	
Stedham	54	Frys Farm.	9	6½	5	1½	
Tillington	20	River.	6	5½	5	½	
Tillington	184	Upperton	9	6	4	2	
Trotton	94	Maysleith	8	8	6½	1½	
West Lavington	52	2 Royal Oak Cottages	6	6	3	3	

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited.	Undesignated.	Total
Wholesale Producers	9	59	41	111
Wholesale and Retail Producers	4	4	10	18
Retail Producers	1	6	19	26
Retail Dairies	-	-	2	2
Retail Purveyors	-	-	12	12
	14.	69.	86.	169.

Inspections Made:-

	Cowsheds	Dairies.
Visits of Inspection	336	338
Informal Notices Served	31	47
Informal Notices complied with	38	49

ANALYSIS OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING YEAR.

Grade of Milk.	<u>Methylene Blue Test.</u>			<u>Coliform Test.</u>		
	No. Satis- factory.	No. Unsatis- factory.	Total.	No. Satis- factory.	No. Unsatis- factory.	Total.
Accredited	7	nil	7	7	nil	7
Undesignated	47	6	53	42	11	53
	54.	6.	60.	49.	11.	60.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Visits to Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops, Ice Cream Shops, Prepared and Other Food Premises.....	429
Informal Notices Served.....	7
Informal Notices Complied with	6
Number of Animals inspected either as a result of Emergency Slaughter or killed for part sale to butchers:-	
Bovines (heifer).....	1
Pigs.....	18
Sheep.....	14
Foodstuffs Found Unfit for Human Consumption	approx. 13cwts.

Notes:

- (i) During the year the Receiving Depot at West Street, Midhurst, used in connection with the distribution of meat supplies throughout the District, was re-conditioned and the practice of dumping of meat supplies on the floor was discontinued.
- (ii) A number of samples of milk produced in the Rural District taken in the City of Chichester were found upon examination to be unsatisfactory, and upon investigation it was found the adverse reports were due to Milking Churns being returned in an unclean condition. Action was taken to ensure the maintenance of a proper standard of cleanliness in the Milk Churns.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Total Cases admitted to Hospital.	Died.
Measles	195	0	0
Whooping Cough	35	0	2
Pneumonia	8	1	14
Erysipelas	4	1	0
Scarlet Fever	21	8	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	4	0
Diphtheria	8	8	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0

Measles.

The outbreak, which had begun in the previous November, continued until June. Its incidence was fairly general.

Scarlet Fever.

The increased incidence was due to an outbreak in a hostel for evacuated mothers and children at Fyning House. With the consent of the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health the services of a fever-trained nurse were obtained and the patients were nursed on the spot. The co-operation of Dr. Foulds of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was secured and the outbreak did not assume the extent or severity that might have been expected.

Whooping Cough.

Eleven of the thirty-five notified cases were treated in the Auxiliary Hospital at "Ganavan", Cocking, with most satisfactory results.

Diphtheria.

The increased incidence was mainly due to a small but rather unpleasant outbreak in the Parish of Tillington among two families of Portsmouth evacuees whose manner of life predisposed them to an abnormally high incidence of infection. Prompt use of antitoxin saved most of them from attack. Later fresh cases, apparently unconnected with this outbreak, occurred in the same Parish. One of the victims of this outbreak had been immunised and his attack was very mild. His brother, with whom he slept while very infectious, escaped. Fortunately the level of immunity produced by previous injections was very high throughout the village and the cases never raised any fear of general spread.

Pneumonia.

Eight cases of Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during the year. The deaths of 14 persons were attributed to all forms of pneumonia during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The active campaign for the immunisation of children of school and pre-school age was continued during the year when considerable progress was made. The following table shows the number of children who received a complete course of immunisation, together with the estimated child populations it is considered were immunised at the 31st December 1941:-

	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over, but under 15.	Total.
(a) Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation during the year	261	1,053	1,314
(b) Approximate estimated number of children in the district at 31st December 1941	1,370	2,740	4,110
(c) Percentage of child population considered immunised at 31st December 1941	22.26%	61.5%	

Tuberculosis.

Age periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
25	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	3	6	3	2	3	2	-	1

Of the deaths two were in un-notified subjects.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	Male.		Female		Total
	Respir-atory.	Non-respir-atory.	Respir-atory.	Non-respir-atory.	
Cases on register Jan.1st.	38	9	28	11	86
New cases added	3	3	6	2	14
Cases removed from register	41	12	34	13	100
	3	-	4	1	8
Cases on register Dec. 31st. 1941	38	12	30	12	92

CHICHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health (Moveable Dwellings) Sub-Committee

To be presented to the Public Health Committee on the 17th March, 1939.

17th February, 1939. At a meeting of the Sub-Committee.

PRESENT: Major A.E. Levin (Chairman) Mr. E.G. Arnell, Mr. G. Boyce, Dr. H. C. Tucking, Mr. P.S. Parris, together with Dr. R.C. Barford and Lt. Col. W.G. Moore representing the Parish of Selsey.

Gealls Brickfield, Nyetimber, Pagham.

A letter was read dated 13th February, 1939 from Mr. R.C. Mitchell, on behalf of Miss H.C. Mitchell, the owner of two moveable dwellings stationed on the above field, asking for an extension of from 5 to 6 weeks in which to remove the moveable dwellings.

Upon consideration it was resolved that such request be not acceded to.

130. M. Chesterton, Tuff's Hard, Bosham.

A letter was read dated 7th February, 1939, from the above named regarding the decision to refuse him a licence and requesting, for the reasons stated in his letter, the reconsideration of his application with a view to a licence being granted him.

The Committee, in view of his circumstances, resolved that Mr. Chesterton be granted a licence until the 30th September, 1939 permitting the use of his land for camping purposes.

W.B. Fleming, Montalan Crescent, Selsey.

A letter was read dated 15th February, 1939 from Mr. W.B. Fleming asking whether the Council would reconsider their decision with a view to a licence being granted to him upon the same terms as that issued for the period expiring 31st December, 1938.

On the report of the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Lewis) it was resolved that the decision previously communicated to Mr. Fleming be adhered to.

136. R. Balchin, Cakeham Road, East Wittering.

139. W. Balchin, Home Farm, East Wittering.

148. A. Merritt, The Lamb Inn, Yapton.

149. P.H. Letto, The Wadeway, Selsey.

Applications were received and considered from the above named and on the report of the respective Sanitary Inspectors, it was resolved that they be refused, but that the applicants be informed that subject to compliance with the general conditions regarding density, water supply, space between structures, provision and maintenance of closet accommodation, refuse disposal and disposal of closet content and waste liquids, favourable consideration would be given to a revised application providing the moveable dwellings proposed to be stationed on the site are either tents or genuine motor trailer caravans.

140. A. Wakeford, Prospect Farm, Chidham.

141. Henty & Constable, Ltd., "Black Boy," Old Fishbourne.

143. L.C.H. Baker, The Barn Hotel, East Wittering.

144. N.A. Sims, The Barn Hotel, East Wittering.

145. Mrs. F.M. Standish, "Val Rosa," Bracklesham Bay.

The Committee gave careful consideration to the above applications